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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/777,530	02/06/2001	Jennifer Ann Himes	GP2-0173/08EB03112	8448
23413	7590	03/08/2005	EXAMINER	
CANTOR COLBURN, LLP 55 GRIFFIN ROAD SOUTH BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002			MEINECKE DIAZ, SUSANNA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

***Requirement for Information under 37 CFR § 1.105***

1. Applicant and the assignee of this application are required under 37 CFR 1.105 to provide the following information that the examiner has determined is reasonably necessary to the examination of this application.

The Examiner has located PCT Publication WO 01/46883 A2. This PCT application is assigned to General Electric Company (the same assignee as that of the instant application); however, there are no common inventors between the PCT application and the instant application. The invention claimed in the instant application is substantially similar to the disclosure of WO 01/46883 A2, which claims priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/467,319 (now abandoned), filed December 20, 1999. The Examiner requests information regarding the specific features of any products or services known to or provided by Applicant or Assignee that incorporate all or part of the instantly claimed subject matter. Furthermore, the Examiner requests clarification regarding who contributed to which of the various aspects of the claimed invention. Applicant should reconcile the fact that there are no common inventors between the PCT application and the instant application. Additionally, please state the specific improvements of the subject matter in claims 1-41 of the instant application over the disclosed prior art, including any related products or services known to or offered by Applicant or Assignee as well as the disclosure of WO 01/46883 A2, and indicate the specific elements in the claimed subject matter that provide those improvements.

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2. The fee and certification requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 are waived for those documents submitted in reply to this requirement. This waiver extends only to those documents within the scope of this requirement under 37 CFR 1.105 that are included in the applicant's first complete communication responding to this requirement. Any supplemental replies subsequent to the first communication responding to this requirement and any information disclosures beyond the scope of this requirement under 37 CFR 1.105 are subject to the fee and certification requirements of 37 CFR 1.97.

The applicant is reminded that the reply to this requirement must be made with candor and good faith under 37 CFR 1.56. Where the applicant does not have or cannot readily obtain an item of required information, a statement that the item is unknown or cannot be readily obtained may be accepted as a complete reply to the requirement for that item.

3. This requirement is subject to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.134, 1.135 and 1.136 and has a shortened statutory period of TWO (2) months. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susanna M. Diaz whose telephone number is (703) 305-1337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9 am - 5:30 pm.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 2, 2005

  
**SUSANNA M. DIAZ**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
*Au 3623*

  
**TARIQ R. HAFIZ**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**